

For Immediate Release Contact Person: Carrie Baribeau, Communication Specialist September 3, 2024

Ensuring the Safety of Seniors

Barron Electric Cooperative recently donated over \$1,200 to the Aging and Disability Resource Center(ADRC) of Washburn County to help purchase two AED units and four LifeVac choking rescue devices. ADRC received donations toward these AED units. With Cooperative Principle #7 'Concern for Community' in mind, Barron Electric's Board of Directors agreed to give the final amount needed to reach their goal earlier. Valerie VanderBent, Nutrition Director, of the ADRC of Washburn County said, "We want to ensure the safety of our participants while they are dining and gathering at our sites. With these items, we can provide peace of mind knowing that in the event of a medical emergency, we can increase the chance of one's survival with these readily available devices." Aaron Torud, General Manger of Barron Electric Cooperative, said, "This donation aligns with our mission of improving the lives in the areas we serve."

Funds for Barron Electric's donations are derived from the Federated Youth Foundation, an administrative trust overseeing unclaimed cashback credits of former members. The Federated Youth Foundation has specific requirements for which the funds can be used. Legally, Barron Electric cannot use funds from unclaimed cashback credits to reduce rates. Barron Electric has served the rural area since 1936 and currently provides electricity to nearly 20,000 members.